

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 8-12 and the specification are amended to correct informalities. Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 is further amended to include the features of canceled claim 4. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Jacobson and Chaney in the February 20, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The rejection of canceled claim 4 is moot. Claim 12 is amended to obviate the rejection. The specification is amended to be consistent with the amendment in claim 12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,663,522 to Butcher. The rejection of canceled claim 4 is moot. This rejection of the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that pinch-off lines are formed within a circle which is concentric with said bottom face and which has a diameter equal to or less than $\pi D_p/n$, wherein π represents a circular constant, D_p represents an outer diameter of a parison, and n represents the number of the pinch-off lines. This feature is described in the original specification at paragraph [0016].

As discussed during the interview, Butcher does not teach or suggest that the diameter of such a circle has a relation to the number of pinch-off lines. In particular, although Butcher discloses in Fig. 4 pinch-off lines within a circle having a diameter, Butcher does not

teach or suggest that such a diameter is defined by an equation $\pi D_p/n$, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Butcher.

Claims 2-3 and 5 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

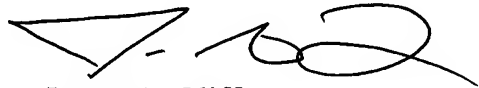
The Office Action rejects claims 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Butcher in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0061371 to Schmidt et al. (Schmidt). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Schmidt does not overcome the deficiency of Butcher with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 6-12 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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